**Subsidised Services to Poor**

890. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the services to the poor are subsidised out of the increased revenue from corporate/business sectors;

(b) whether it is a fact that considering the delays in transmission of mails/articles and the hike in postal tariffs the poor are resorting to telecommunication which has become affordable now; and

(c) what steps are being taken to evolve a better efficient and cheaper mode of postal communications to the poor in comparison to telecom facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) During the year 2001-2002, the amount of subsidy provided in respect of important services which fulfil social objectives is as under:

| | |
|---|---|
| Post Card | 92.50% |
| Inland Letter Card | 67.45% |
| Indian Postal Order | 93.09% |
| Money Order | 57.84% |

(b) The reduction in household mail traffic is a global phenomenon and is due to emergence of alternative means of communication like e-mail and substantial reduction of rates for telephone calls. Generally, the postal services are efficient.

(c) The Department of Posts is providing efficient postal services through subsidised products and services. New initiatives like Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras for the rural areas are also meant to provide easy access to basic postal facilities in a cost effective manner.

**Termination of Licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom. Ltd.**

891. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not terminated licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom. Ltd. a licensee operating in Uttar Pradesh (East)